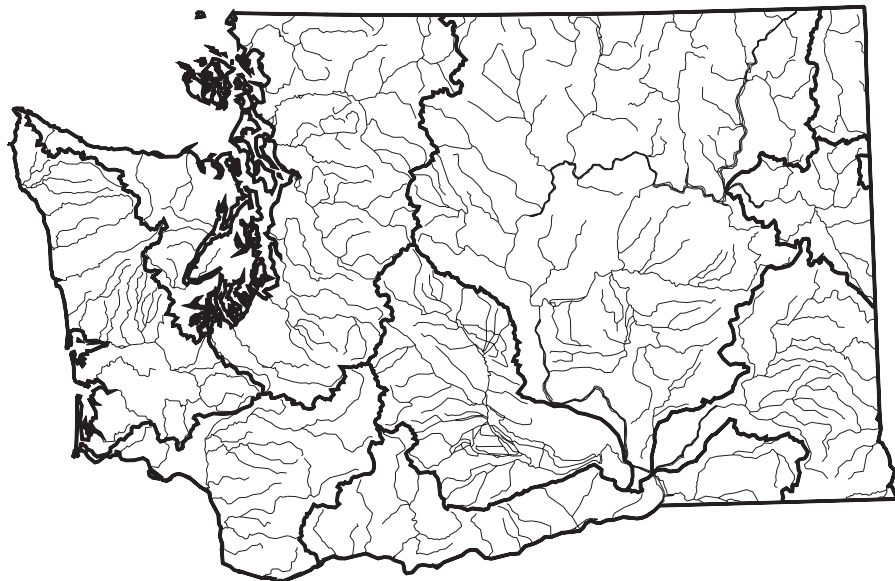


# Washington



— Basin Boundaries  
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Washington 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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## Surface Water Quality

Washington reports that 23% of their surveyed river miles fully support aquatic life uses, 14% partially support these uses, and 63% do not support aquatic life uses. All surveyed lakes partially support swimming use. Two percent of the surveyed estuarine waters fully support aquatic life uses, 3% partially support these uses, and 95% do not support aquatic life uses.

Low levels of dissolved oxygen, often naturally occurring, are the major cause of impairment of designated uses in estuaries. Bacterial contamination, primarily from agricultural runoff, onsite wastewater disposal, and municipal wastewater treatment plants also causes impairment in estuaries. Major causes of impairment in lakes include nutrients and noxious aquatic plants. Agricultural production is the predominant source of impairment in lakes. Other sources include urban runoff, municipal point sources, land disposal, construction runoff, and natural sources. In rivers and streams, agriculture is the major source of water quality degradation, followed by hydro-habitat modification, natural sources, and municipal point sources. Causes of water quality impairment from these sources include thermal modification, pathogen indicators, pH, and low dissolved oxygen.

## Ground Water Quality

Washington reports ground water contamination by metals, trace elements, nitrates, pesticides, petroleum, and synthetic organic chemicals. Sources include industrial activities, agriculture, municipal wastewaters, mining, and onsite sewage systems.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

Washington provides financial incentives to encourage compliance with permit requirements, the principal vehicle for regulating point source discharges. The State also has extensive experience developing, funding, and implementing nonpoint source pollution prevention and control programs since the early 1970s. The State has developed nonpoint source control plans with best management practices for forest practices, dairy waste, irrigated agriculture, dryland agriculture, and urban stormwater. The State is now focusing attention on watershed planning. The watershed approach is designed to synchronize water quality monitoring, inspections, permitting, nonpoint activities, and funding.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

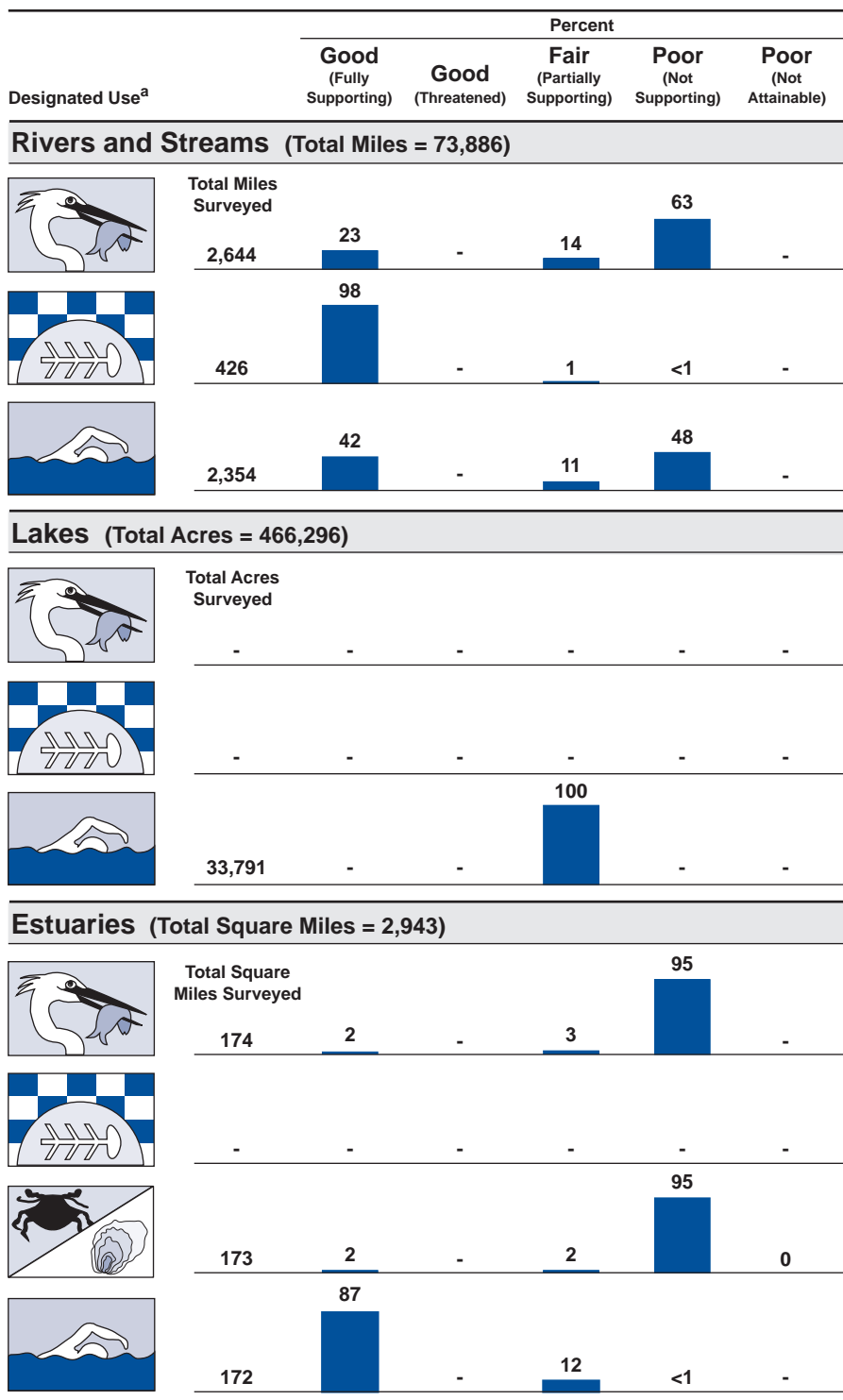
Washington implements an aggressive program to monitor the quality of lakes, estuaries, and rivers and streams. The program makes use of fixed-station monitoring to track spatial and temporal water quality changes so as to ascertain the effectiveness of various water quality programs and be able to identify desirable adjustments to the programs.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

<sup>a</sup> A subset of Washington's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

## Individual Use Support in Washington



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.